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An angry House Ways and Means Chairman **Charles Rangel** lit into The *Washington Post* at a news conference today for an article alleging he used congressional stationery to solicit donations for the City College of New York's Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service and asked the House Ethics Committee to investigate him for any possible wrongdoing. Critics have alleged that Rangel's letters to David Rockefeller, Donald Trump, and former American Insurance Group CEO Maurice Greenberg were improper because the men could have business before Rangel's committee. "I challenge The *Washington Post*

-- and if you can find some word a little stronger than that -- to show one line in any of the letters that I have sent out on behalf of the City College institution, which their board of directors decided to name after me, where there's a solicitation for funds," Rangel said.

Rangel asserted the letters were sent to the foundations the recipients represent, not corporations, adding he could not remember any of the recipients ever having business before the committee. In the letters, Rangel asked for meetings between the recipients and CCNY representatives to discuss the Rangel Center. In calling for an investigation of himself, Rangel said he was attempting to "clear the air" for other members of Congress who do the same thing. "I've been asking, encouraging the Ethics Committee to investigate whether that violated any ethical rule, so that I can encourage my members to do more of it," Rangel said. When asked about Rangel's call for an ethics investigation at her separate news conference today, **House Speaker Pelosi**

said, "I support his request." Rangel also alluded to a statement issued Wednesday by Reps. **Jeff Flake**

, R-Ariz., and John Campbell, R-Calif., that they would attempt to strip future earmarks for the Rangel Center. Rangel has secured \$2.6 million in earmarks for the center in the past. "Any member like me that has an institution of learning that's going to improve the quality of education ... hey, I'm out there and I'm going to do all I can to increase it," he said.